



The use of learning centers in an elementary school classroom (early childhood)

By: Caroline Hunt



Why learning centers?

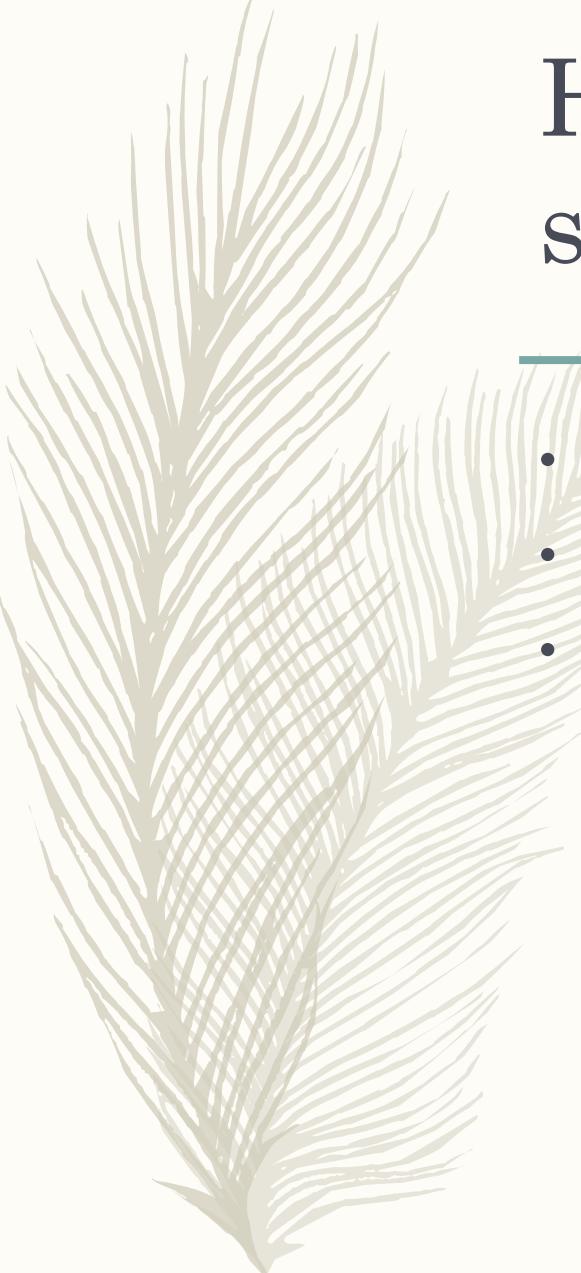
“Education is not a process of memorizing facts and dates, nor is it merely the ability to recall the facts and dates...education is learning where to seek information that is required...”

- Doris W. Like, More on Learning-Resource Centers Vol 46 Iss. 4, 1969
- Learning center help student learn how to seek information.



How do classroom centers develop and teach students how to learn?

- #1 The students can learn to engage with each other
- #2 The student learn problem solving skills
- #3 The students learn to do self based activities
- #4 The students can refocus themselves
- #5 The students can learn doing fine motor skills
- #6 The students can test the skill levels in the centers



How do students use concepts and structures in centers?

- Organized play with friends in the center is a common concept for the students
- Learning centers can be structured to open.
- During transition children can choose their own center.



How do teachers prepare the centers?

- Determine the skills you want your students to learn and practice
- Be sure all materials are ready and that there are directions for the activities
- Baskets or other containers to hold sets of materials can be helpful.
- Students can work on small carpet squares.
- Figure out where centers are going to be placed. Centers don't have to be separate locations around the room. This make it easier to prepare for the center.



What areas should be covered in a center?

- Block Center – Students play and make things with blocks
- Home Center – Students play with kitchen and have dress up
- Computer Center – Students play educational games on the computer
- Library Center – Students can read and look at books quietly
- Messy Table Center – Students play with objects that are in a round hollow table